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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

[31]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

Only communications relating to the news columns should be addressed to THE EDITOR. Correspondents must forward their names and address with communications addressed to the Editor, and for publication, but as evidence of good faith. All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

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DEATH.

On the 27th July, at his residence, Kowloon, Mr. JAMES HENRY COX, aged 72 years. (1833)

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VUE ROAD CH. LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG, 28th JULY, 1904.

There does not appear to be a prima-facial connection between international law and the custom of wearing mourning clothes; but some impatient comments that have recently appeared with regard to the first, and a new story recently told with reference to the second, appear to suggest an association almost intimate. The comments referred to partook of the nature of doubting allusions to the usefulness of international law, as having back of it neither an international law court nor an international police force to enforce its decrees. The story was of a woman in service who asked for a brief holiday, and an advance of money with which to "buy blacks," as her husband was dead. Her mistress kindly suggested that it would be waste of money. Had not the man ill-treated her and neglected her so that she had had to return to service? Was it possible that there could be any genuine regret for him? When did he die? "Oh! mum," the poor woman naively admitted, "he died nine months ago in jail, but I've just heard of it. I must go into blacks. It isn't respectable not to." With no more preamble, we may proceed, in medias res, to demonstrate the essential consanguinity of these two apparently incongruous matters, and thereby, possibly, point a moral. For while we have in these columns casually mentioned international law as a thing not yet perfectly developed, we have carefully refrained from alluding to it with the slightest tincture of disrespect. To it we look, and to it only, for help towards that brotherhood of man that the anti-war people prate of. They view the abolition of war as the necessary antecedent

to universal fraternity, and so, to many practical minds, they seem as dreamers. In a held paradox, it seems to us, is truth and hope to be looked for; and it is this—that the real federation of mankind is impossible without the sword. Some days ago we mentioned international law as an evolutionary product of the crude primal laws that must have antedated the Decalogue by millions of years, and it is obvious that it must have had such small beginnings. The original object of all legislation, whether a simple law upheld by a sheik, or a complicated system maintained by a nation, was, it must not be forgotten, the attainment of the greatest good of the greatest number. Law has ever been, and is now, primarily the protector of the social aggregate. Primarily, because it will at once occur to the reader that the modern law of civilization pays careful attention to the rights of the individual, protecting the weak against the strong, and, not infrequently, the minority against the majority. Its vital principle, however, is the communal well-being. It has been pointed out by some philosophers as one of necessity's inventions, and the idea has occurred in many minds, no doubt, that in the earliest communities to frame a code of conduct there must have been a sort of referendum, followed by the consent either of all or of a big majority. A relation of ANDREW LANG's has pictured for us the primal law as the arbitrary rulings of the fathers of the first families, small round hands, in which the strongest made himself "a judge over Israel," and drove out of the circle the younger males who might show signs of disputing his authority. Whatever its earliest beginnings, we have seen that law has gathered unto itself more than a mere collection of "thou shalt not's." It has attracted in course of time the "thou shalt's," which make of it an ethical system. Our concepts of right and wrong, the late Mr. HERBERT SPENCER would have told us are also the fruits of evolution, acquired by generations of dwelling upon the consequences of infringements of the law. The forces of heredity despatched and confirmed the idea that certain actions inimical to the social organism were wrong, with the corollary that their opposites were right, until presently were men and women who did the right thing by instinct, or conscience, and refrained from doing the wrong in the same easy way, without having to stop to count the cost. Unfortunately, while such acquired instincts were being multiplied and developed, there was always that weak link in the chain that Mr. DARWIN had to reckon with, atavism. There was never a generation without some members in it who had harked back to the primitive instincts and impulses that were lawless because existent prior to law. Otherwise, with the moral instinct uniformly evolving, law as we know it would in time have disappeared with the disappearance of its necessity. For such "throws back," law is still required, and since such ethical "sports" are unable to appreciate the mere inhibitions of law as binding upon themselves, the arm of the law, which is force, compulsion, must perforce be still held up. The poor woman who felt she must wear mourning for a worthless and unloved husband was a subject of that transmitted subjective adaptation of the moral judgment to which we have referred, which we now call conscience. She did not belong to that order which is fain to regard all public opinion as Philistinism, and which, in setting up its own standards, frequently only betrays its atavistic tendency toward civility to law. Were all of her cerebral capacity, the brotherhood of man would not be far off, and the principles of humanity would exercise a more effectual control over the actions of human-kind. In spite of a Tsar with an eye to the happiness of the majority, Russia seems to be, administratively, a nation not so amenable to the demands of conscience. What seems to be wanted, for such cases as hers, is another Hague Conference, with somewhat different ideals and objectives, or, at any rate, with a more commonsense programme of methods. English liberty was the direct outcome of baronial coercion at Runnymede. A Magna Charta of the nations is wanted. The KING JOHN-like reluctance of some governments to sign the arbitration scheme of the Tsar was quite excusable. It was not practical politics. Behind arbitration, until that instinct of right and wrong is universally developed, must always be war, as behind the judge and jury there must stand the police. With an alliance of all the nations, pledged to punish any defaulting Power, there would be greater certainty of international law being a living force. The mere reflection that certain things "ain't respectable" does not seem a sufficient restraint upon some diplomats.

There have been five fatal plague cases in the last two days.

Sir John Anderson is engaged in making his first official tour throughout the Straits and States.

A Japanese merchant has bought the wreck of the *Koretsu*, the Russian gunboat blown up in Chemulpo harbour.

The German Mail of the 23rd June was delivered in London on the 23rd inst.

American papers say that General Cronje, aged nearly seventy, has been married at St. Louis.

The foreign passengers of the captured steamer *Heiping* left Nagasaki for Shanghai on the 19th inst.

The output of coal at the Kyushu collieries for the first six months of the present year was 47,927,600 piculs.

The "grand Panopticon" in Des Vaux Road is not open in the mornings. The time to see the exhibition is from six to eleven p.m.

The Japanese authorities have sanctioned appeals to the public for contributions of tobacco, literature, &c. for the Russian prisoners in Japan.

The City Hall Lending Library will be closed on Friday for repairs, and remain closed for a week. No books can be taken out after 9 p.m. to-morrow (Thursday).

The *Japan Times* reports that a Japanese teacher in Vladivostok, named Maeda, has arrived in St. Petersburg and applied for naturalisation papers. He is the Nippon equivalent of a "little Englander," and thinks his country has been "led away by the ideal of territorial expansion."

The Great Northern Telegraph Company's Amoy-Shanghai cable is interrupted for repairs, and some delay is to be expected therefore in the service of telegrams to and from Shanghai and the North. The whole of the traffic is being transmitted over the Eastern Extension Company's cable.

The Merchant Service Guild's flag was not condemned because of its likeness to the naval "Jack." It appears that it has to be of certain dimensions—7 by 5 feet, diamond 6 by 4—and that in the Singapore case these dimensions were exceeded. The flag, with its "M.S.G." in diamond as before, is declared legal by the Board of Trade.

By kind permission of Lieut.-Col. Immoeger and officers, the Band of the 33rd Burma Infantry will play the following programme at the Kowloon Hotel, during dinner, this evening (weather permitting):—
March, "The Star of Bobbie Burns" Orl Home
Entrée, "A Letter de Manon" Gillet
Selection "Les Cloches de Corneville" Planquette
Cortet Solo "I'll Sing Thee Songs of Araby" City
Selection, "Floradora" Leslie Stuart
Valse, "A Greek Slave" Sidney Jones
Polonaise, "Hoffman" Gungl

So far, the Australian raid on the English magazine publishers (in the ostensible behoof of "abundant good literary talent" among Colonials) has not produced the golden egg that was expected. The following tells its own story: "English Mail Examined. Poor Result! Adelaide, Wednesday.—Acting under instructions from the Controller-General of Customs, the examination of magazines by this week's English mail was carried out at Port Adelaide this morning. Five officers went through forty-eight cases, and the net result of the overhaul was the discovery of 37lb. weight of insects (loose sheets), which, at 3d. per lb. duty, will realise 9s. 3d." If this were a fishing column, or one given to frivolity, we might have something seemingly funny to say about Sir William Lyne and his net, and his miraculous haul, and so forth. As it is, we hold our hand, leaving the bare facts to sink into the soul of the Minister of Customs and such others as it may concern.—*The Outlook*.

Yesterday morning passed peacefully away one of the oldest residents in this Colony, Mr. J. H. Cox, who had been suffering for some months from a cancerous growth in the throat, took to his bed about three weeks ago, and had since grown gradually weaker. He died at his residence, Kowloon, at 7.30 a.m. yesterday. Mr. Cox was widely known and generally respected. He came out in 1860 or 1861 to join the firm of Messrs. Turner and Co., and after the death of the Hon. Phineas Ryrie, managed the business of the Hongkong branch of the firm until the death of the surviving partner, Mr. Walkinshaw. When the firm changed hands, Mr. Cox was gladly accorded a room in his old office, where he invariably turned up daily until quite recently, his last appearance being about the end of last month. Mr. Cox was an excellent bookkeeper, and was at one time auditor of several public companies. He was also a Justice of the Peace and took a keen interest in all local affairs, though chiefly as an observer. He was a most regular attendant at the Hongkong Club, of which we believe he was the oldest resident member, and where his face was the one perhaps most familiar to the habitués. He was a liberal subscriber to public charities and many acts of private kindness can be placed to his credit. Deceased married late in life, and leaves no family. Mrs. Cox predeceased him in January 1901, and her loss was severely felt by him. His funeral took place yesterday evening in the Protestant Cemetery, Happy Valley, and was very largely attended by the male portion of the British community. He was buried in the same grave with his late wife, over whom he had erected a handsome marble monument. Mr. Cox was in his seventy-third year.

THE WAR.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

ANOTHER SEIZURE.

LONDON, 27th July.

The Volunteer cruiser *Smolensk* has seized the P. & O. steamer *Formosa*, eastward bound, and taken her to Suez. There is some dissension at St. Petersburg, and the Russian authorities are doing all they can to evade a settlement of the questions raised by Great Britain.

[REUTERS SERVICE.]

THE DARDANELLES.

LONDON, 28th July.

Mr. Balfour in the House of Commons said that he did not wish to minimise the seriousness of the question arising out of the recent captures, which had raised a separate question, viz. that of the Dardanelles, and which was still giving the Government great anxiety; signs, however, portend a favourable issue, and it was inexpedient to say more. The Government consider that prizes should have the free use of the Canal like other ships, but do not consider that British merchantmen are required to submit to the removal of their cargo without the authority of a prize court.

LATER.

The Porte, in consequence of the British protest, has informed Russia, through her Ambassador, that no more Volunteer cruisers will be permitted to pass the Straits of Dardanelles.

RUSSIAN VOLUNTEER CRUISERS.

LONDON, 28th July.

The *Smolensk* and the *St. Petersburg* are cruising in the vicinity of Jeddah. The Russian Consul at Suez is negotiating a charter of the Khedivial yacht to convey instructions to the Volunteer cruisers in the Red Sea. It is expected in St. Petersburg that the cruisers will eventually join the Baltic fleet and be replaced by ordinary war-ships. The *Malacca* will be transferred to the British Consul at Algiers.

THE ADVANCE ON LIAO.

LONDON, 28th July.

General Sakaroff reports that the Japanese advance guard is advancing along the Taikoo river, east of Linyang, followed by a strong column with thirty guns.

WAR ITEMS.

JAPANESE STRATEGY.

Some idea of the extraordinary care and precision with which the Japanese generals move their armies has occurred to *To-Day*. Before crossing the Yalu, it was necessary that General Kuroki should leave the Russians in absolute ignorance of the force at his disposal. Under ordinary circumstances, as the Russians were occupying the heights on the other side of the river, all the movements of the Japanese forces—their arrival and concentration at Wiju—would have been under observation. To remedy this, all the roads and passes up which the Japanese army had to move were carefully screened by mats of maize-stalk, so that man and horse could move unseen. In the elementary simplicity of this strategy lies its real genius. Never since Malcolm disguised the real strength of the army he was marching against Macbeth by making each soldier carry a branch of a tree so that it seemed to the Scotch King that Birnam Wood was marching on Dunsinane, has strategy of such a kind been resorted to. Moreover, right up to the last moment Kuroki kept the Russian Commander in absolute ignorance as to his strength. All his forces were moved at night, and in order that there should be no sound, the bridge by which they reached the first island in the Yalu was covered with matting of maize-stalk and the pontoons with straw. In the final crossing all the approaches to the river were screened, and almost without a sound, thirty thousand men, with guns and reserves of ammunition, passed over two rivers by one narrow bridge, padded with straw, and one pontoon, strewn with maize stalks, between the hours of darkness and dawn. Small wonder, as the *Standard* correspondent says in his graphic account, that the Russians were taken by surprise.

WEATHER REPORT.

The Hongkong Observatory yesterday issued the following report:—
On the 27th at 11.50 a.m. The barometer has risen sharply in the neighbourhood of Misco Sina owing to the receding typhoon and has fallen at all other stations.
The typhoon still moving towards the N.W. threatens to enter the coast to the northward of Foochow.
Strong W. winds, backing to S.W., will be experienced in the Formosa Channel, and moderate S.W. winds in the northern part of the China Sea.
Forecast:—Moderate S.W. winds, fine.

IMPORTANT JUDGMENT RE CHITS.

In the Civil Summary Court at Shanghai, on 15th July, Mr. J. C. E. Douglas, Acting Assistant Judge, in re Central Stores, Ltd., v. W. M. Harris, gave judgment as follows:—

This is a summons taken out by the plaintiff company against the defendant claiming the sum of Mexican dollars ninety-four and cents seventy, being an account due from the defendant to plaintiff for refreshments supplied to the defendant at his request. At the hearing of this summons Mr. A. H. Campbell on behalf of the plaintiffs stated that he held chits in support of this claim, and that some of them were given for wines, cigars, spirits, and corded waters; that as regards these drinks they were supplied to the defendant over the bar of the Central Hotel, two or three drinks at a time. He, moreover, stated that the defendant was not staying in the hotel at the time when any part of this debt was contracted. The defendant admitted the whole claim, but the facts before me raised the question whether the plaintiffs were legally entitled to a judgment against the defendant on the whole or any part of the claim having regard to the statutes in force with regard to claims of this nature.

By section 12 of the Statute 24, Geo. II. c. 40, it is enacted as follows:—

"That from and after the said first day of July one thousand seven hundred and fifty-one no person or persons whatsoever shall be entitled unto or maintain any cause, action or suit for, or recover either in law or equity, any sum or sums of money, debt or demands whatsoever, for or on account of any spirituous liquors, unless such debt shall have really been and bona fide contracted at one time, to the amount of twenty shillings or upwards; nor shall any particular article or item in any account or demand for distilled spirituous liquors be allowed or maintained, where the liquors delivered at one time and mentioned in such article or item, shall not amount to the full value of twenty shillings at the least, and that without fraud or covin; and where no part of the liquors so sold or delivered shall have been returned or agreed to be returned directly or indirectly; and in case any retailer of spirituous liquors, with or without a licence, shall take or receive any pawn or pledge from any person or persons whatsoever, by way of security for the payment of any sum or sums of money owing by such person or persons for such spirituous liquors or strong waters, every such person or persons offending herein shall forfeit and lose the sum of forty shillings for each and every pawn or pledge so taken in or received by him or them, to be levied and recovered by warrant under the hand and seal of one justice of the peace where the offence is committed; and the person or persons to whom any such pawn or pledge doth or shall belong, shall have the same remedy for recovering such pawn or the value thereof, as if it had never been pledged."

By the Statute 25 and 26, Vict. c. 38, the above enactment is repealed but, so far only as relates to spirituous liquors sold to be consumed elsewhere than on the premises where sold, and delivered at the residence of the purchaser thereof in quantities not less at one time than a reputed quart."

By Section 182 of the County Courts Act 1888, 51 and 52, Vict. c. 43, being a re-enactment of Section 4 of the County Courts Act 1867, 30 and 31, Vict. c. 142, it is provided as follows:—

"No action shall be brought or be maintainable in any county or other court to recover any debt or sum of money alleged to be due in respect of the sale of any ale, porter, beer, cider, or perry which was consumed on the premises where sold or supplied, or in respect of any money or goods lent or supplied or of any security given for, in, or towards the obtaining of any such ale, porter, beer, cider, or perry."

These statutes contain certain limitations which the legislature in England has thought fit to impose on the sale on credit of intoxicating liquors and having regard to Article 5 of the Order of Council of 1865 and to the fact that there is nothing in these statutes in any way limiting the sections quoted or making them inapplicable to the circumstances which prevail here, I have no alternative but to apply them so far as they are applicable, if at all, to the circumstances of the present case.

The object of the legislature would appear to be the protection of a certain class of people from the temptation to immoderate drinking and, given a similar class of people here to-day, and a similar temptation, there can be no question as to the applicability of these statutes or of the right of these people to this protection.

It must be noted that the law, in a sense, is not absolutely prohibitory but simply says if a certain sort of contract is made it will not be enforceable, in the same way as it does not allow a contract for an immoral or illegal consideration to be enforced. It is desirable to discourage certain practices, and this is done by the refusal of legal remedies in certain cases.

It is not for me to consider, beyond the circumstances of the present case, any limitations which have been put upon the Statute of 24, Geo. 2, c. 40, by the Courts, or which it might be argued should be put upon it by the actual wording, which is certainly not free from doubt. I may say, however, it is essentially a poor man's Act. It is known as 'The Tippling Act,' and has for its object the protection of a certain class of people from immoderate drinking which may be indulged in by the purchase on credit of intoxicating liquors at public bars. I am well aware that in this community a great many contracts are entered into and faithfully carried out, which strictly speaking are not capable of being legally enforced, and I see no objection to that, but when a case comes into Court I can only deal with it according to the law as it stands.

In this case the defendant admitted the debt, but stated that he was not in a position to pay and he did not desire to offer any evidence on

the facts. I am only able, then, to consider the question on the admissions of the plaintiff and on the chits which are before me. The plaintiffs, however, were desirous that I should on this evidence consider how much of the claim was legally enforceable. I have examined the chits and I find that a good many of them were given for cigars and cigarettes, others, it appears probable, were given for liquors or dinners, and the rest, with two exceptions, do not state the nature of the refreshments supplied. The two exceptions mentioned, being two chits for 80 cents each given for drinks connected with brandy and gin, are clearly within the statutes, but, as regards the rest of the claim, there is nothing before me on which I can decide that it is not enforceable by reason of the statutes.

On these facts there must be judgment for the plaintiffs for \$94.70 less \$1.60, that is to say, for \$93.10, and they will be allowed \$3 for the costs of the summons.—*N. C. Herald*.

THE WAY OUT.

A decision has been rendered on the way to write a chit.

By a judge well steeped in wisdom and the law.

And in brief his finding reads that if you leave it blank you're "It."

When a summons is presented at the door.

Contrary-wise, if you inscribe the nature of the drinks

Upon the piece of paper's virgin face,

You can owe a thousand dollars (this is where the bar-keep winks),

And keep the summons servers on the chase.

For, according to His Worship who the finding handed down,

And whom ten thousand toppers have to thank,

Neglect to specify may mean in this enlightened town,

'Twas devilled bones or sandwiches you drank.

So, impecunious, one and all, of low degree and high,

At whose signature the bar-boy blandly blinks,

You'll save a deal of trouble and expense if when you buy,

A cocktail or a peg, you name the drinks.

[H. M. Ayres in *Shanghai Times*.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

INQUIRY COURTED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—The Portuguese staff of the Post Office has a genuine grievance against those correspondents who, concealed behind misleading initials, have been reflecting upon it in the correspondence columns of your contemporaries. In the matter of the misarrangement of the Nagasaki mail, complained of recently by a Nagasaki correspondent in your morning contemporary, the Portuguese members of the Postal staff court the fullest official inquiry; but in the meantime, no proper complaint having been lodged, they regard public animadversions of the kind referred to as a grave injustice.—Yours, &c.

IMPARTIAL.

LAND SALE.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, auctioneers, yesterday afternoon sold by public auction a piece of valuable leasehold property situated in Ho Oak Wei, No. 17 District, Kowloon. Messrs. Ewins & Harston had the conveyancing.

The property was described as all that piece or parcel of ground lying and situate in Ho Oak Wei, No. 17 District, Kowloon, in the Colony of Hongkong, registered in the Land Office as Kowloon Farm Lot No. 7. It contains by measurement in the whole four acres and is held from the Crown for the residue of a term of 999 years granted by a Crown Lease dated the 8th August, 1865. Annual Crown Rent \$18.00.

Bidding commenced at \$5,000 and went up by increases of \$100 and \$200 a time. Those competing for the property were all Chinese, with the exception of Mr. Ahmet Runjahn. Mr. Lau Sin Han became the purchaser, the price being \$8,600.

THE VOLUNTEER CONCERT.

The Hongkong Volunteers last evening presented an exceedingly enjoyable entertainment on their parade ground at the back of the Cathedral. The little green, illuminated by a profusion of Japanese lanterns, made a gay picture which was heightened in tone by the sprinkling of uniforms in the crowd. The band of the 93rd Mahratta Light Infantry played.

The programme opened with an orchestral selection. Gunner P. W. Golding, H.K.V.C., sang "A song of thanksgiving," a satisfactory tenorial effort. Mr. Frank Austin rendered "The Border Ballad," a baritone solo, and was well received. A wholly charming item in the first half was Mrs. H. M. Webb's song, "The Eucharist," which was encored. Mr. R. Sutherland sang an Irish comic song and a Scotch encore, in both of which he was at home. The band then played a selection.

After a ten minutes' interval the orchestra again struck up. Sergt. W. Terrill, H.K.V.C., took to the vocal "war path," harmoniously telling the audience what is done "When we fight," and was applauded. Mr. P. L. Miller played two very pretty violin solo, "Chanson Triste," and "La Cigarette." Mr. G. H. Edwards sang Sergeant's setting of Shakespeare's "Ingratitude" song. Mr. R. Sutherland gave another comic song, and Mr. Frank Austin a fine baritone solo, "The Pipes of Pan." The band "wound up" a very enjoyable programme.

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THE
FAMOUS
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APOLLO.

CAN BE SEEN AND TRIED AT
THE
ROBINSON PIANO CO. LD.

**FINGERS
FURNISHED
FOR
PERFECT
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To those who are unable to play the piano in the ordinary way, we offer the

Apollo Piano Player

This wonderful invention is a small, neat cabinet supplied with fingers that play like those of a professional, giving to any one, without instruction, unlimited command of the piano.

We have three different styles in all the various woods which sell for \$4.50 and up on easy MONTHLY payments.

Fine musical LIBRARY available. Daily recitals.

THE ROBINSON PIANO CO., Ltd.
Hongkong, Singapore, Shanghai.

Hongkong, 27th July, 1904. [1409]

THE JAPAN LAUNDRY COMPANY,
REORGANISATION.

THE above Company have already won great admiration from all their customers, the work being excellently done. A New Scheme has recently been introduced, and the work is done quickly and satisfactorily. Excellent handymen have just arrived from Japan. Charges moderate. Special attention is directed to washing and ironing. Orders will be executed promptly. Head Office, No. 23, Caine Road. Branch Office, No. 291, Mongkok Street.

L. NAKAGAKI,
Manager.

Hongkong, 23rd July, 1904. [1708]

NOTICE TO SHIPPERS.

THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA are prepared, during suspension of their Trans-Pacific Service and until further notice, to book cargo and issue Bills of Lading to SEATTLE, WASH., VICTORIA, B.C., and PACIFIC COAST PORTS, also to OVERLAND POINTS in the UNITED STATES and CANADA in connection with the GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY from SEATTLE, as hitherto by the steamers of the NORTHERN PACIFIC S.S. CO., BOSTON STEAMSHIP CO., and TOWBOAT CO'S, OCEAN S.S. CO., and CHINA MUTUAL S.S. CO.

For Further Particulars, apply at the Company's Local Branch Office in Prince's Building, First Floor, Chater Road.

A. S. MIHARA,
Manager.

Hongkong, 20th May, 1904. [1298]

HIRANO WATER.
THE QUEEN OF TABLE WATERS.
PURE, SPARKLING, INVIGORATING.

THE LEADING MINERAL WATER OF THE EAST Bottled in Japan by H. E. REYNOLDS & CO.

BEWARE OF JAPANESE IMITATIONS.

F. BLACKHEAD & CO., AGENTS.
Hongkong, 31st July, 1903. [1156]

FOR SALE
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TEAKWOOD STEAM LAUNCH in Good Working Order and condition. Length 36 feet. Breadth 7 feet. Depth 3 feet 6 inches. Engines, Compound Outboard Condensing. Price \$3,250. Apply to—

Care of Daily Press Office.
Hongkong, 31st May, 1904. [1374]

FOR SALE.

NOS. 1, 2 or 3, STEWART TERRACE, THE PEAK.

Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LD.
Hongkong, 21st May, 1904. [129]

FOR SALE.

POSTAGE STAMPS. Complete Price list for 1904 now ready. Sent post free on application.

GEO. E. ANTHONISZ,
Sea Spray, Colpetty,
Colombo, Ceylon.
Hongkong, 19th July, 1904. [1754]

THE CHINA STATION.
VENTILATION OF SHIPS, ETC.
This is taken from the *Naval and Military Record* to hand by the last mail:—
Hongkong, 10th May.

During the stay of the squadron at Long Harbour, Mrs. Bay, the *Vengeance*, *Albatross*, *Cressy*, *Centurion*, *Sirius*, *Ocean*, and *Amphitrite* completed their prize-fighting. This kept the carpenters' stalls of ships exceedingly busy repairing targets and on one occasion, as the Commander-in-Chief wished the firing not to be interrupted through lack of targets, carpenter ratings of the squadron were employed day and night repairing them. Mr. Elstone, carpenter of the *Gloria*, was in charge of the repairs, which were very efficiently carried out under primitive circumstances, during inclement weather. This, however, was not overlooked by the Commander-in-Chief, who, with characteristic consideration and foresight, signalled that an extra spirit ration would be issued to those employed on night repairs. This thoughtfulness was much appreciated.

The *Sirius* was inspected by Rear-Admiral Curzon Howe, and the *Vengeance* by the Commander-in-Chief. Exceedingly smart, workmanlike, and neat, was the appearance of the *Vengeance*, and it was pleasing to note that, in these days of "smart ship craze," when the comfort of men is too often seriously handicapped during the inspection, many evidences were forthcoming of the great skill, care, and trouble which her executive officer, Commander Guy R. Gaunt, R.N., had taken to combine efficiency with comfort in his details of organisation, which speaks well for his future career as a supplementary officer. During the inspection, which lasted two days, the Commander-in-Chief paid great attention to internal details, especially ventilation. This is exactly as it should be, for Sir Gerard Noel evidently recognises that the health of a warship's crew primarily depends on efficient ventilation. The admiral may rest assured that his exertions in this direction will be heartily endorsed by all under his command, especially those who have long spells of duty in semi-confined places where fresh air is at a premium.

13th May.

After a busy fortnight in Mrs. Bay, the squadron, consisting of *Gloria* (flag), *Albatross*, *Centurion*, *Amphitrite*, *Ocean*, and *Vengeance*, left on the 10th inst., and proceeded to sea, spending the afternoon at manoeuvres. In the evening ships were exercised at general quarters, after which the engines were stopped, lifeboats lowered, and the signal, "Hands to bathe" made, in response to which appeared a multitude of floating humanity around each ship. Having rehoisted lifeboats, the squadron continued its journey, and at 10 p.m. "man and arm ship" stations were exercised. At midnight fog appeared, but with the assistance of fog buoys and guns station was steadily preserved, and when it cleared on the following morning their formation had not been interfered with, steady progress having been made towards our destination. Amoy, at which place we anchored at 5 p.m. The Acting British Consul paid an official visit to the Commander-in-Chief, and was saluted with seven guns on his departure.

On Thursday afternoon, our stay being short here, leave was given to chief petty officers, and in the evening a long-looked-for race between 12-cared cutters, manned by crews of marines from the *Albatross* and *Ocean*, took place. The course was three miles, and after a keenly-contested race, the *Ocean* won by a considerable lead. This race created some sensation, from the fact that a deal of money was staked on it. Ramour has it that among the sportsmen of the squadron 3,500 dollars were invested on the event; certain it is that the sum was considerable. The victory for the *Ocean*, followed by a concert, held on board the same evening, formed a fitting event for the first anniversary of her present commission.

Unfortunately the results of our recent prize-firing have not proved the success which these days of "dotters," aiming and towing target instruction and other technical and practical devices for training would seem to warrant. On the part of the officers concerned, no time, care, or trouble has been spared, whilst the captains of guns appear to have taken a keen interest in putting the valuable instruction imparted to them to practical use. Although the results may not perhaps reach the expectation of enthusiasts in heavy gun shooting, satisfaction is at least found in the fact that the firing has been carried out in every detail, strictly in accordance with instructions. Spotting is now discontinued, and there can be no doubt that, to some extent, this may account for the final results, which were as follows:—

STRENGTH: HOW TO OBTAIN IT.

To build up a strong frame, and to maintain it at its best is a duty which everyone owes to him or herself. Of course frail people cannot expect to perform feats of strength such as are done now and again to astonish the public; but the robust can, never-the-less, greatly increase the amount of strength they possess, by taking judicious exercise and proper nourishment. Food and drink play such important parts, and so much help forward or retard the process of becoming strong, that they should be chosen with the most extreme caution. Van Houten's Cocoa is a beverage that everyone should take who wishes to become strong; or, who, being strong, wishes to remain so. It contains just the particular nourishment required for the making of bones and muscles, and being easily digestible, the greater portion of that nourishment is taken up by the blood. Van Houten's Cocoa is easy to make ready, boiling water alone being necessary for that purpose. It is cheap, because a little goes a long way, and it is delicious in flavour. It is suitable for use morning, noon or night, and "Once used always used."—[Adv't.]

"VENGEANCE."		
	Total rounds.	Total hits.
6in. guns	137	87
12in. guns	41	11
Best 6in. gun	14	13
Best 12in. gun	20	7
One of the 6in. guns only got off 3 rounds altogether.		
"OCEAN."		
	Total rounds.	Total hits.
6in. guns... ..	139	68
12in. guns	46	15
Best 6in. gun	13	12
Best 12in. gun	8	5

This compares unfavourably with the *Ocean's* shooting last year, when she had only been six weeks in commission. On that occasion, the figures were:—

	Total rounds.	Total hits.
6in. guns	107	73
12in. guns	28	18 ^a
Best 6in. gun	12	11
Best 12in. gun	8	6

^a 6 minutes less time.

This is very bad indeed, and considering the recent controversies about her sighting arrangements, it would appear to confirm the opinion of those who are inclined to doubt their accuracy. The 9.1 per cent. made with the 10in. gun is sure to call forth comment when the Admiralty issue their annual return.

On Friday, 13th, at 3 a.m., the *Sirius* arrived from Hongkong with mails and supernumeraries for the squadron. On the trip up she ran a full-power trial, and made the passage of 240 miles in 19 hours. She returns to Hongkong to-day with mails, when the squadron leaves after which she will relieve the *Talbot* at Singapore as senior naval officer.

The Ventilation Committee, ordered by the Commander-in-Chief to examine the ventilating arrangements in ships, have been very busy, and a useful purpose is served by their exertions to solve an important but difficult problem.

13th May.

The squadron is now leaving for Woosung, where we are to be joined by the *Leviathan*, *Humber*, and *Zeppelin*. The two latter are to escort two destroyers each from Hongkong, and an imposing squadron representative of the China fleet will then be with the flag.

To ensure the ships being ready for any emergency the Admiral made the signal on 9th May that all ships were to put forward demands at once for two quarters ammunition in excess of the ship's outfit. Casually few outsiders realise what this means, as although it has been customary for some time to take practice projectiles in excess of the complement, the cartridges for their propulsion have been expended from the ship's outfit; now each ship will have her magazines stowed to their very utmost with excess ammunition, so that after an absence of over six months from a naval arsenal, the ships' outfit of ammunition and projectiles will be complete. The extra stores are to be sent to Weihaiwei, where the fleet will probably arrive at the end of May. This is another of the many marked steps for efficiency which Sir Gerard Noel has recently made.

RUSSIAN CENSORSHIP.

In spite of official statements to the effect that the censorship in many respects was to be abolished during the present war, it was never more strict, and never more annoying, says a correspondent to the *Times*. It must be borne in mind that when the Russian Government, at the very beginning of the war, declared their magnanimous intention of taking the people of Russia and the world in general more into their official confidence in regard to current events than they had hitherto done, those circles were not in the despondent mood they are in at the present moment. Four months ago the Yalu had not been crossed by the Japanese, there had been no Kin-chau and no Wa-fang-shan, and people here would never have believed it possible that June running out would still find Kurapatka marking time without a single success of any magnitude to set against a series of Japanese victories.

As an example of the strictness of the censorship on the foreign Press, nothing in the nature of foreign Press comment on the conduct of the war or of criticism on the mistakes of Russian commanders in the field is allowed to pass the censor's hand anywhere within the Russian Empire without resort to the blacking-out. An especial eye is kept on the *Times*. Plain truths in regard to such matters as the "riots" at Kishineff, the humanity of Russian despotism in Finland, the paternal treatment of non-Orthodox Churches within the Russian pale like the Armenian Church in the Caucasus were never keenly relished by Russian bureaucratic departments. They were, of course, "untrue" or "exaggerated." Moreover they were matters which were no concern of the outside world. War news being mainly bad news, and comment on that news mainly critical, it is

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"blocked out" in the *Times* with increasing frequency. Not content with using the brush and pigment, the Russian censor even at times resorts to wholesale excision. He does not stop at cutting out a couple of columns, but now and again "administratively" suppresses a page or two. A gentleman, residing in St. Petersburg informs me that he received yesterday the *Times* of Saturday, June 18, minus the whole of pages 7 and 8, while of the three leading articles published in the *Times* of Friday, the 17th inst., and apart from other "black-out" portions, one and a half on page 9 was obliterated.

The only effect produced is, with Russians as with others, to arouse increased curiosity in regard to the contents of "black-out" articles, which they are shrewd enough to grasp must especially concern their own country. The contents of the *Times* are fairly well known to Russians of the better classes in all the larger centres of the Russian Empire, and the endeavours of the educated public to secure a perusal of its columns are only stimulated by the "administrative" measures directed against it.

SHIPPING NOTES.

WEATHER AT SEA.
Moderate to light monsoon and pleasant weather prevails in all directions.

MUSKELAN.
The *Yacata* M.S., belonging to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, brought a valuable cargo of general merchandise, from Japan to this port. The *Yacata*, arrived from Moji yesterday with 4,450 tons of coal for Messrs. Bradley & Co.

A NEW LINE TO THE FAR EAST.
Messrs. Howard Houlder, Rowat & Co., Ltd., of New York, have recently announced to the maritime community in that city that they have concluded arrangements whereby the well-known Prince Line will join them in their line to the Far East. The *America* *Syren* and *Shipping*, commencing on the announcement, says:—The firm of Messrs. Howard Houlder, Rowat & Co. are most widely and favourably known in the shipping business. In a recent issue of this paper it was noted that Mr. Howard Houlder made a speech on the occasion of a shipping banquet in London which was quoted by all the journals of maritime interest on account of its pertinent and lucid allusions to conditions in the ocean business. The firm has, for the past eight months, been running a line of ships from New York to Singapore, Manila, Shanghai, and similar ports in the Far East, in opposition to the other lines in that trade, and the arrangement now concluded with the Prince Line will, without doubt, go far to strengthen their position.

The line new steamers which the Prince Line has lately added to its fleet, must prove a valuable addition to the tonnage in the trade. The service will now maintain a monthly schedule of sailings, with more frequent departures should the necessities of business demand it, as, with the inclusion of the Prince Line, all arrangements are perfected for supplying any demand. The ships will all be loaded jointly by Messrs. Howard Houlder, Rowat & Co., Ltd., and the John C. Sesser Co. TYPOGRAPH RECORDING.

The Rev. Jose Aguirre, S.J., the well-known and popular director of the Philippine Weather Bureau, has recently invented a new instrument for the more intelligent study and recording of cyclones and typhoons. The name of the new instrument is the barocyclometer. It is a combination of a barometer and of a novel contrivance which Father Aguirre has named the cyclometer. As the instrument is actually constructed it also comprises a thermometer, showing the temperature in both Fahrenheit and Centigrade. Although this addition augments the convenience of the apparatus it is none of its essential parts. The instrument is already being made use of in Great Britain and on the Continent.

"KOREA'S" LAST VOYAGE.
On her arrival at "Fuso" on the last day of June the *Korea* ended a career which was taxed at over half a million dollars Mexican. After leaving Hongkong the *Korea* was detained in quarantine at Kobe for eleven days on account of an alleged case of plague among the Chinese steerage passengers. The man was, however, afflicted with nothing more serious than pneumonia, according to Captain Seabury, but the Japanese having decided that it was the plague the *Korea* had to remain in quarantine. During the long wait there, the passengers made the best of the situation, and were made so comfortable by Captain Seabury, Chief Officer Lewis, Purser Allen, Surgeon Dales, and Chief Steward Ashman that no complaints resulted. On the other hand, the passengers presented an illuminated address to Captain Seabury, the artistic decorations having been made by the Comte de Fersen, who was a passenger from Hongkong to Yokohama. After leaving Japan the *Korea* gained a day on the homeward run. She is to sail again for the Orient on 9th inst.

STEAMER MOVEMENTS.
The C.P.R. steamer *Empress of India* left Vancouver on Monday, the 25th July, p.m., for Hongkong via the usual ports of call.

The Glen Line steamer *Glenloch*, from London, &c., left Singapore this morning, and may be expected here on Monday, the 1st August.

The Indo-China steamer *Liaison*, from Calcutta and the Straits, left Singapore for this port on the 26th July, at 6 p.m.

The E. & A. steamer *Empire* will leave for Kobe on Saturday, the 30th July, at daylight.

The H.A.L. steamer *Scandia*, bound for China and Japan, left Suez on the 26th July.

The P.M. steamer *China*, with mails, &c., which left hence June 28th for San Francisco via Amoy, &c., arrived at her destination on the 25th July.

The J.C.J. Lijn steamer *Tijnah* left Macassar for this port on the 26th July, and may be expected here on the 3rd August.

The Boston Steamship Co.'s steamer *Tremont* arrived at Seattle on the 26th July.

The steamer *Sagami* arrived at Manila on the 26th July.

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Medium Size \$3.50
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CANTON DISTRICT.
LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS.
No. 66.

Additional Light at Whampoa Barrier.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on
or about the 21st instant, a Spar beacon
surmounted by a disc and showing at night a
red light (unclassified) will be placed on the
Northern edge of the channel immediately below
the steamer passage through the Whampoa
Barrier.

J. HOWELL MAY,
Harbour Master.

Approved,
R. DE LUCA,
Acting Commissioner of Customs.
Custom House,
Canton, 20th July, 1904. 1788

COLD STORAGE.

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Storage available at EAST POINT. Stores will
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Wm. FARLANE, Manager.
HONG KONG, 18th November, 1901. [137]

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Hongkong, 19th March, 1904. [78]

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 284: 2689-2695.

